

# ST. JOSEPH PARISH AND SCHOOL – DECEMBER 31, 2017

## **Dear Parishioners and Families,**

Sunday is Holy Family Sunday. I encourage you to study the Icon and its explanation in the bulletin this week. This was taken from note cards that I use regularly. They come from the Printery House, Conception Abbey, Conception MO.

The shortest prayer I use with the most meaning is simply: “**Jesus, Mary, and Joseph.**” Invoke this prayer often in your family. Add a phrase such as, Bless our family. I whisper this prayer into the ears of people who are approaching new birth in the Kingdom of Heaven. May this prayer, **Jesus, Mary, and Joseph** be on your lips and in your heart often.

### **Gaudete Hall New Year’s Eve Party Canceled**

The New Year’s Eve party in Gaudete Hall is canceled. The party was meant as a default celebration for those who might not have a place to be on New Year’s Eve but wanted to celebrate. I am so happy that most people apparently have plans that fit their own particular needs and this party became unnecessary. Very few people signed up for Gaudete Hall this Sunday evening.

Families celebrating together is certainly the most desired. We have so much to be thankful for especially when we view other parts of the world and consider the plight of so many refugees.

### **Bishop’s Letter on Communion Under Both Species**

Bishop Murry wrote me the day before Christmas asking me to not use Intinction at the Christmas Masses. He further told me he intends to issue directives as a Diocesan Bishop for the distribution for Communion under both kinds in January. I believe he wishes the entire Diocese to be on the same page on this liturgical matter.

On Wednesday I spoke with Dr. Chris Dussel of our parish, an emergency room doctor, about Communion from the Chalice. He noted the flu season is in full swing and rampant. He noted the flu vaccine this year is not highly effective, perhaps only in the neighborhood of 20%. He was not in favor of people receiving Communion from the common Cup.

As we await the Bishop’s directives in later January, we will be giving Communion only by way of the Sacred Bread, except for the one or two persons who need to receive from the Chalice because of gluten sensitivity.

### **School Trip to Columbus to Visit COSI, February 15<sup>th</sup>**

COSI is a science museum and research center located in Columbus, OH. COSI stands for the Center Of Science and Industry. The children from 2<sup>nd</sup> grade through 7<sup>th</sup> grade together with their teachers will be on chartered buses leaving at 7:30 AM on Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup>. This is all part of the school tuition and the school’s agenda to be superior education blended with Faith.

### **Thank You to a Most Generous Parish**

Thank you for the parish’s generosity in the Christmas collection, personal gifts received, much food, and many prayers. This is certainly a loving and thoughtful parish.

Bishop George V. Murry, S.J. celebrated his 69<sup>th</sup> birthday on Thursday. His kind and spiritual leadership for the Diocese is a blessing for all of us.

Fr. Tom Acker, S.J.  
December 31, 2017